

vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at the Skull Base Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers in Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, and participating hospitals throughout the country.

One of the wonderful services provided through American Cancer Fund for Children is the Magical Caps for Kids program. Hand-made caps and decorated baseball caps are given to children who want to protect their heads following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of children's bravery and determination in their struggle against cancer.

As we know, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. This tragic disease is detected in nearly 11,000 of our Nation's children each year. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection are providing critical services and comfort to young patients and their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Steven Firestein for his tremendous efforts.

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CHOOSE GENEROSITY, NOT  
EXCLUSION

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**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, somewhere in Minneapolis or Jackson or Baltimore, somewhere in America today, there is a young couple that is feeling vulnerable. Maybe one has been laid off due to outsourcing, and maybe, the other is working for something close to a minimum wage. They probably have no medical benefits. Today real income is lower for the typical family than in 2000, while the incomes of the wealthiest families have grown significantly. Things are tough for working people, but in America, we often turn to our faith in tough times.

When our couple shows up for worship service, probably on a Sunday, there is no doubt that the preacher will tell them of God's unyielding love. "God loves you." But the next thing the preacher tells them is crucial—not only to the young couple, but to us all. The next message from the preacher may help to shape, not only the next election results, but the political landscape of the Nation.

Will the preacher tell our young couple, "God loves you—but only you and people like you?" Or will the preacher say "God loves you and you must love your neighbors of all colors, cultures, or faiths as yourselves"? One message will lead to be a stinginess of spirit, an exclusion of the "undeserving," and the other will lead to a generosity of spirit and inclusion of all.

In America today, we are encouraged to believe in the myth of scarcity—that there just isn't enough—of anything. But in the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus, who the Muslims called Isa, found himself preaching to 5,000—not including the women by the way—at dinner time, and there didn't appear to be enough food. The disciples said that there were only five barley loaves and two

fish. We just have to send them away hungry. We simply don't have enough. But Jesus took the loaves and the fish and started sharing food. There was enough for everyone. There was more than enough. What was perceived as scarcity was illusory as long as there was sharing, and not hoarding.

The idea here is not that there is a boundless supply of everything. Such an idea leads to waste and dispensability of everything. But the idea is that there is enough.

If scarcity is a myth, then poverty is not necessary. America need not have 37 million Americans living below the poverty line. It is a choice. Hunger is a choice. Exclusion of the stranger, the immigrant, or the darker other is a choice.

We can choose generosity. In America today, we spend more on health care than any other industrialized Nation, yet 46 million people have none. Canada spends half of what we spend and covers everyone. Perfectly? Of, course not. But adequately. That's more than what a lot of people have right now.

We live in a society which says that there is enough for a tax break for the wealthy but not enough for an increase in the minimum wage for national health care. There is enough for subsidies to oil and coal companies but not for families who are struggling to afford child care or a college education. But it doesn't have to be this way.

We need a politics of generosity based on the reality of abundance as opposed to a politics of not enough. The richest 1 percent of the Nation, on average, owns 190 times as much as a typical household. The child poverty rate in the United States is the highest of 16 other industrialized nations. Employers are shifting health insurance costs onto workers. Not only are fewer employees receiving health insurance through their employers, but those who still do are paying more for it.

Recently, I have become the focus of some criticism for my use of the Qu'ran for my ceremonial swearing in. Let me be clear: I am going to be sworn into office like all Members of Congress. I am going to swear to uphold the United States Constitution. We seem to have lost the political vision of our founding document—a vision of inclusion, tolerance and generosity.

I do not blame my critics for subscribing to a politics of scarcity and intolerance. However, I believe we all must project a new politics of generosity and inclusion. This is the vision of the diverse coalition in my congressional district. My constituents in Minnesota elected me to fight for a new politics in which a loving Nation guarantees health care for all of its people; a new politics in which executive pay may not skyrocket while workers do not have enough to care for their families. I was elected to articulate a new politics in which no one is cut out of the American dream, not immigrants, not gays, not poor people, not even a Muslim committed to serve his Nation.

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TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
WEEK

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**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catholic Schools Week.

The Nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 28 through February 3. Catholic schools have made many significant contributions to the education of our Nation's children.

Catholic schools have a longstanding and proud tradition in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The percentage of Catholic families who choose Catholic schools for their children here is among the highest in the country. There are about 51,000 students enrolled in our Catholic elementary and high schools. Catholic schools foster an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students learn to value God, themselves, and others.

Today I would also like to recognize and commend our Catholic educators who are committed to a living faith community founded on the Catholic tradition of academic excellence and enriching the lives of the children they teach spiritually, academically and socially.

I strongly support the goals of Catholic Schools Week 2007 and laud their efforts to produce students dedicated to their faith, families, and values.

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CELEBRATING BETTY NIXON'S  
PIONEERING CAREER OF SERVICE  
TO HER COMMUNITY

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**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Tennessee delegation, in particular Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. TANNER, to pay tribute to a lifelong activist and community servant, Betty C. Nixon, upon the occasion of her retirement from Vanderbilt University. Betty's last 17 years have been spent building bridges between Vanderbilt and the Nashville community, firmly connecting this institution to the city she loves, and yet this work represents only a small sliver of her service to her fellow citizens.

Betty's ties to Nashville run deep. She grew up there, graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1954 and heading to Texas, where she would graduate from Southern Methodist University in 1958. Most people would rest or retire after teaching high school in Alabama for the decade of the 1960s, but not Betty. By 1975, she had been elected to her first of three terms in the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County and was serving as deputy press secretary for Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. It was only the beginning of her public service.

In 1982, the same year she graduated from the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, Betty became the first woman to chair the Metro Council Budget Committee. Two years later, she managed the statewide political campaign for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, and four years after that, she managed James R. Sasser's successful bid for the U.S. Senate. Along the way, Betty ran for mayor in 1987 and 1991, and once again she blazed a trail: Betty was the first woman to run for mayor in Nashville's history.

Like many civic-minded individuals, Betty moved to Washington, but after a year of professional service to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations,